



State of Wisconsin
Scott McCallum, Governor

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

James E. Harsdorf, Secretary

AB 676
1/17/02
AB06766
pt 01
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January 14, 2002

Representative Al Ott
PO Box 8953
Room 19 South, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708-8953

Dear Representative Ott: *al*

I am writing to support Senate Bill 340 and its companion Assembly Bill 676, relating to veterinary postgraduate training permits.

As you are aware, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is the agency responsible for animal health in the state of Wisconsin. DATCP is committed and vigilant in its watch, and relies heavily on a partnership with the state's veterinarians.

Veterinarians play a critical role in the identification, treatment and control of animal disease in the state. Therefore DATCP does not take lightly any change in the training or credentialing of veterinarians practicing in the state.

Under the scope of this legislation, I believe the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine and Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board can adequately identify and credential qualified graduate veterinarians for postgraduate training permits.

Sincerely,

James E. Harsdorf
Secretary

JEH/km

Cc. Assembly Committee on Agriculture

Vote Record

Assembly - Committee on Agriculture

Date: 1/17/02
 Moved by: Rep. Hubler Seconded by: Rep. Gronemus
 Clearinghouse Rule: _____
 Appointment: _____
 Other: _____

AB: AB 676 SB: _____
 AJR: _____ SJR: _____
 AR: _____ SR: _____

A/S Amdt: _____
 A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Amdt: _____
 A/S Sub Amdt: _____
 A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Sub Amdt: _____
 A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Sub Amdt: _____

Be recommended for:

☒ Passage

☐ Introduction

☐ Adoption

☐ Rejection

☐ Indefinite Postponement

☐ Tabling

☐ Concurrence

☐ Nonconcurrence

☐ Confirmation

Committee Member

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Rep. Alvin Ott, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Eugene Hahn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Ainsworth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Jerry Petrowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Steve Kestell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Scott Suder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Gabe Loeffelholz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Garey Bies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. J.A. Hines	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Barbara Gronemus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Joe Plouff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Marty Reynolds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Steinbrink	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Julie Lassa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Marlin Schneider	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Mary Hubler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: 15 0 1 0

☒ Motion Carried

☐ Motion Failed

**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
REGULATION & LICENSING**

Scott McCallum
Governor
Oscar Herrera
Secretary



AB 676
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**Statement of: The Department of Regulation and Licensing and
Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board
Regarding
Testimony on 2001 Assembly Bill 676
Before the
Assembly Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, January 17, 2002, 10:00 A.M.**

Good morning, Chairman Ott and committee members. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today and testify in support of Assembly Bill 676.

My name is Myra Shelton and I am the Executive Assistant and Legislative Liaison at the Department of Regulation and Licensing. I am testifying today in support of AB 676 on behalf of Secretary Oscar Herrera. Also, testifying with me in support of AB 676 is Dr. William Bartlett, DVM board member of the Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board, and Rachel Rothschild, Assistant Dean of the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine.

Assembly Bill 676 and its companion Senate Bill 340 are a legislative initiative of the Veterinary Examining Board that the Department, University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine, and Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association support.

We would like to publicly thank Representative Alvin Ott and Senator David Hansen for agreeing to be author(s) of the bill(s) and all of the Assembly and Senate legislators that signed on as bill sponsors.

Basically, AB 676 changes the current law requirements for issuing a Veterinary postgraduate training permit by:

- Eliminating the requirement that an applicant has either completed the National licensing examination, be scheduled for the examination or be awaiting for the results of the examination, and eliminating the requirement that an applicant hold the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine if the applicant holds an equivalent degree.

The rationale for the proposed statute changes is:

- To give the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine the same competitive tools that other U.S. schools of Veterinary Medicine enjoy when they seek to attract international veterinary graduates for postgraduate (residency) training, and to allow applicants that hold an equivalent degree to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree to hold a veterinary postgraduate training permit. Please see the attached bill chart.

We do believe that the proposed changes to the veterinary statutes are in the best interest of the public and hope the bill receives your vote of support. Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today on this very important piece of legislation.

Attachment: Bill Chart

CHANGE PROPOSED IN THE REGULATION OF VETERINARIANS AND VETERINARY TECHNICIANS

CURRENT LAW

Under current Section 453.06, Stats., the board may grant a postgraduate training permit to a person undertaking intern or resident training at the U.W. School of Veterinary Medicine, if he or she has received a doctoral degree in veterinary medicine; and has either completed the national licensing examination, is scheduled for the examination or is waiting for the results of the examination. The exclusive purpose of the credential is to permit postgraduate education, and the holder must practice only within the scope of the permit holder's residency or internship program.

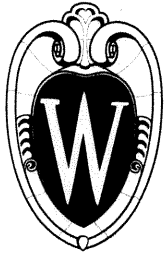
PROPOSED CHANGE

The proposed change would eliminate the requirement that the applicant have either completed the national licensing examination, be scheduled for the examination or be awaiting for the results of the examination. The change would also eliminate the requirement that the applicant hold the degree of doctor of veterinary medicine if the applicant holds an equivalent degree.

REASON FOR CHANGE

Elimination of the requirement that an applicant for a postgraduate training permit have completed or be scheduled for the national licensing examination will give the UW-Madison School of Veterinary medicine the same competitive advantage that other U.S. schools of veterinary medicine enjoy when they seek to attract international veterinary graduates for postgraduate (residency) training.

A number of European and Asian countries grant degrees in veterinary medicine which are equivalent to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree, but which are not designated as such. Great Britain, Australia and Japan, for example grant the BVSc degree (Bachelor of Veterinary Science). Under the proposed change, such persons would not be prohibited from holding a training permit.



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN—MADISON

School of Veterinary Medicine

AB 676
1/17/02

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2001 Assembly Bill 676
Assembly Committee on Agriculture
Hearing Date: January 17, 2002
Testimony of Rachel C. Rothschild, Assistant Dean
School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Thank you Representative Ott and members of the Assembly Committee on Agriculture for receiving testimony on AB 676 today. My name is Rachel Rothschild and I am an Assistant Dean at the UW-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine. I am the school's liaison with the Veterinary Examining Board on matters related to licensing of veterinarians who are employees or graduates of the school. Accompanying me today from the school, and available to answer questions, is Dr. Sheila McGuirk, a veterinarian and professor who also served for a number of years as Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs and Director of the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. .

As you know, AB 676 was introduced at the request of the Department of Regulation and Licensing, the Veterinary Examining Board and the UW-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine. The bill also enjoys the support of the Secretary of DATCP and Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association (WVMA), which is the professional association for Wisconsin's veterinarians.

I would like to discuss why AB 676 is before you and what will change if the bill becomes law. Initially let me explain that postgraduate trainees, eligible for the permit that is the subject of this bill, are graduate veterinarians pursuing advanced, specialty training, typically residency programs of three years duration.

I have tried to anticipate what information will be most helpful and what questions you might have, and I will address the following points.

- Why has AB 676 been requested?
- What is the context in which we seek a change in the veterinary licensing law?
- Who will benefit from the proposed change in the law?
- Will AB 676 lessen the consumer protection effect of current veterinary licensing law?

Two reasons for requesting introduction of AB 676

- Current section 453.06 is outdated in that it requires specific examinations that are no longer given. The National Board Examination and Clinical Competency Test have been replaced.
- Since the statute needs to be updated, the school is requesting that national exams no longer be required of veterinarians applying for postgraduate training permits. This change will improve the school's ability to compete equally with peer veterinary medical schools for the best, qualified postgraduate trainees.

General Background Information

- All veterinarians treating privately owned animals at the school must be licensed in Wisconsin. This applies equally to faculty and resident trainees. Postgraduate training permits are one way of becoming authorized to practice in the State. **AB 676 will not change the requirement that veterinarians at the school be licensed in the state.**
- Most veterinarians coming to the school apply for a license based on examinations they took when they graduated, or based on being licensed in another state (license by endorsement). **AB 676 will not result in any change in this situation.**
- Some very well qualified applicants for residency training do not qualify for these types of licenses. These individuals are typically graduates of foreign veterinary medical schools who do not typically take American national exams. They may be foreign nationals or Americans who have attended veterinary medical schools overseas.
- Wisconsin competes with the 26 other American schools of veterinary medicine to attract and recruit the best, qualified candidates from among a limited pool of veterinarians who apply for residency or postgraduate specialty training. **With adoption of AB 676, we hope to improve our competitive position by eliminating the examination requirement for those few residency candidates each year who do not qualify for a license by exam or endorsement, but rather need to obtain a postgraduate training permit.**
- Academic veterinary medicine is a small field, and is very international. In some specialty areas there are shortages of applicants for residency training programs. **Wisconsin wants to have its pick from among the best candidates.**
- There are 27 American schools of veterinary medicine. Currently, the UW-Madison school is one of only **six** schools in five states that require the national exam in order for resident trainees to be licensed in the state. (The 5 states are Alabama, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Texas and Wisconsin) **Fifteen** American schools are in states that do not require university-employed veterinarians to be licensed at all. Most of Wisconsin's peer veterinary schools are in these fifteen states. The remaining **six** schools require a license, but not the national exams.

Who Will Benefit From The Proposed Change?

With regard to individual license applicants, a couple of people per year will be able to pursue residency training here who would not otherwise be eligible for a license. We recruit only 6-8 new resident trainees each year, and the great majority of them qualify for license by exam or endorsement. Clients of the veterinary medical teaching hospital (i.e., members of the animal owning public), veterinary medical students and referring veterinarians all benefit when the school successfully recruits the best available candidates for residency training positions.

Will The Public Still Be Protected If AB 676 Is Adopted?

Yes. Veterinarians who practice on privately-owned animals are and will continue to be under the jurisdiction of the Veterinary Examining Board, and therefore subject to disciplinary action. Applicants for residency training programs routinely participate in a rigorous national matching program and are screened by the university based on credentials, experience and letters of reference. Resident trainees see client owned animals under the supervision of a licensed faculty member. Postgraduate training permits are limited, allowing only veterinary practice that is undertaken within the scope of the school's residency training program, and they expire upon the permit holder's completion of the training program.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this matter.